

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein each of two ends of the carbon panel terminates in an end element.

3. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device for supporting structures comprising:

a carbon panel, at least one end of the carbon panel being split into at least two strips, and

an end element in which said at least one end terminates,

wherein the strips are inserted at least partially into retaining slots of the end element that are located wedgewise relative to one another.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein said retaining slots of the end element have a rough or corrugated surface.

6. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein bores oriented transversely to the surface of the panel are located in the end element in the vicinity of said retaining slots.

7. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device for supporting structures comprising:

a carbon panel, at least one end of the carbon panel being split into at least two strips, and

an end element in which said at least one end terminates and having slots to receive the strips,

wherein the end element is a parallelepiped made of metal or plastic.

8. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein the end element in the vicinity of the outlet of the carbon panel has at least one transverse reinforcement located transversely to an outlet direction.

9. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein the end element has a threaded bore opposite the outlet of the carbon panel.

10. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3 wherein the retaining slots are located wedgewise in the end element such that a lowest

retaining slot is parallel to the outlet direction of the carbon panel and each of the other retaining slots is located fanwise with an increasing angle from the outlet opening.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) Method for reinforcing supporting elements with reinforcing devices comprising:

cutting carbon panels to an appropriate length,

separating or splitting each panel at at least one end into at least two strips of approximately the same thickness or width,

bringing the at least one end into a connection with an end element to form an arrangement, and

gluing the arrangement to a tension side of a supporting element to be reinforced,

wherein the strips of approximately the same thickness or width are introduced into separate retaining slots of the end element which are arranged fanwise with respect to one another and glued in place or soaked with an adhesive.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) Reinforcing device according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one transverse reinforcement is a threaded rod.

16. (Canceled)

17. (New) Reinforcing device according to Claim 3, wherein the end element comprises at least two spaced apart components to form slots into which the strips are at least partially inserted.